1: Hocart Y-5 (ca. 1920) 1929 OQ6 Lau OQ6
Lakemba

Greens

222 [177] The leaves of various plants are collected by women for use as vegetables (*mboro*). There is the "true" *mboro* and a species of fern called *ota*. The Chilean pepper, cabbage, and cress have been adopted.

Kava Growing

249 Ava plants for the making of kava are propagated by slips; the lower joints with a bud on each are planted. Sometimes they are raised over a flat stone so that the mass of the root grows upwards; the plant then holds on to the ground only by rootlets, which spread over and round the stone.

Coconuts

245 The coconut tree affords a great many articles of everyday use: the root is used for dye; the stem for beams and rafters; the leaves for baskets, fans, and walls; the spathe for a torch; the reticula for sacks and strainers; the husk for coir; the shell for water bottles and cups; the flesh and kernel of the nut are good for men, pigs, and fowls.

A special name is given to each stage of the growing nut: *mataloa, sosou, mbu, kande, niu mandu* (mature nut), *tara* (sprouting nut). Special terms are also used in counting nuts.

When the owner wishes to cut copra, he reserves his coconut trees by setting up some mark, called *lele*, which usually includes portions of coconut leaves. These are merely signs and do not cause disease.

Planting Periods

805 [177] The months are called moons, and are lunar months. It is impossible at the present day to get a complete Lauan calendar, as the European system has displaced the old style of reckoning time. Yam planting determines the names of most months. The month of reeds is the one in which yams are dug up. Some months or series of months are vaguely designated as "digging months" or "months of maturity" (*vula i matua*). Some months are called after the fish that are caught at that season: thus about November comes the "great *palolo*," then the "little *palolo*," then the "great *nungga*," and the "little *nungga*": months when the yams are maturing, so there is no planting.

First Fruits

43 [43] The word *sevu* has a wide meaning. It may perhaps be best rendered by the verb "to handsel," meaning "to begin a thing ceremonially." It applies chiefly however to the offering of first fruits from plantations.

2: Thompson E-5 (1933-1934)1940 OQ6 Lau OQ6
Kambara

241 been the first vegetable to be planted on the limestone islands. Old people say that it was there before the Tongan conquest, but that gardening began with the coming of the Tongans. *Kawai* is esteemed on the limestone islands. It grows wild on Mothe and Namuka, but is cultivated on Fulanga, Kambara, and Ongea.

Natives say that in the past a feast was held in the village after the planting of the first yam.

Sugar cane

Sugar cane grows on some islands of Lau. Mothe has little cane and does not plant it. About two square meters of cane land is found on Kambara. Occasionally the cane is cut down, but it grows again. Fulanga and Ongea grow no sugar cane. (For sugar cane on Lakemba see Hocart, 15, p. 107.)

Maize, cabbage, onions

There are a few patches of maize (*siliva*) on each island. One or two ears are often seen hanging in the house to be planted in October or November. When the ears ripen in the months of February and March, they are brought home by men and usually eaten raw, but Lauans do not especially like corn.

Chinese cabbage (*kapetchi*) is well liked, but is planted in very small quantities on some islands.

Lauans like onions and plant a few at any time of the year.

FRUIT TREES

Coconut

●245 The most common varieties of coconut are the following: *niu wai* (water coconut) also called *niu ni Tonga* (Tongan coconut), *niu rerenga* (yellow coconut), *niu ndrau* (one *hundred coconuts*), *niu ni mangimangi* (sennit coconut), and *niu leka* (short coconut). The *niu wai* grows largest of all coconuts but does not have a fine flavor. It has a thick husk and shell. The plantations, running along the beach wherever the cliff retreats, have few *niu wai*, because this variety has not been known long in Lau. *Niu rerenga* is so called because the leaves are yellow green. The flesh of the *niu rerenga* is especially white. *Niu ndrau* grow in one close cluster. They are small (about the size of a man's fist), but have the finest flavor, are excellent for drinking, and have a thin husk and shell. *Niu ni mangimangi* is considerably longer than [283] any other variety, therefore it furnishes the longest and also the toughest fiber for sennit. The *niu leka* tree grows only up to 5 meters, and yields a good crop. It is found only in the villages or in young plantations.

Coconuts are planted at any time of year, usually at the side of or behind a house. The nut is covered with a little soil, and when the sprout is about 40 cm. high the nut is transplanted to a spot in a coconut grove where a tree

2: Thompson E-5 (1933-1934)1940 OQ6 Lau OQ6
Kambara

has died. A shallow hole in the sand is dug by hand, with a stick, or with a large shell. Usually nuts are transplanted at sunset. Natives say that if the planter carries someone, preferably a young boy, on his back while planting, the tree will bear more fruit. Trees on the leeward side of the island are sturdier than those on the windward side. The best harvests are gathered from trees between 10 and 60 years of age.

Good qualities in a coconut are considered by Lauans to be a thin husk and a thin shell to admit the sun, which sweetens milk and growing meat.

Ono has the reputation for having the best flavored coconuts, Lakemba for the greatest quantity of nuts. The soil of Kambara is a little too sandy for coconuts. The trees growing on Ndelaioloi are said to bring forth the largest number and the best fruit on the island. Mothe has many coconuts. On Fulanga and Ongea the trees are small and do not bear so well as on the other islands. Namuka has large groves, but many trees are unhealthy.

There are several coconut pests. *Mate ni niu* (coconut death) is caused by the purple moth (*Levuana iridescens*) and is greatly feared. The branches of the tree turn rust brown or black, drop, and the tree dies. In recent years the colonial government has sent an insect-eating fly (*Ptychomyia remota*) imported from the Malay States, to the infected islands and the pest is rapidly retreating. Coconut crabs, of which there are many on Wangava, break the nuts on the ground and eat them or leave them to spoil. On Komo, a rat is said to climb the tree and "eat" the young nuts. Some coconut trees are killed by a fern which grows in the branch fork.

Every part of the coconut tree is used. Coconut oil is indispensable. Copra is still used in limited quantities in exchange for western trade goods, especially tobacco, kerosene, and cloth. The meat is an important food for human beings, pigs, and chickens. It is the first food given to a baby. The milk is drunk and used in preparing fish and greens. The husk is used for sennit and kindling, the wood is used for fuel and is split into roof laths, the leaves are used for baskets, and the midribs of the leaflets for brooms. Whole leaves are made into mats for house walls, floor mats, and thatch. The root is used as meditine and the reticulum serves as a medicine bag. The spathes make the best torches. The branches are used in fishing, and the elastic thick middle rib, freed of its foliage, is used as a lash.

The harvest of nuts for copra is picked off the ground by women. Several nuts are carried on one arm pressed against the body and one nut is carried in the free hand of the other arm. They are placed in a row on the path or thrown into an enclosure fenced with vertically placed sticks. The nuts are split by kneeling women, the meat poked out with a stick, shell, or cane knife and put into baskets. It is then placed on boards, usually on the beach outside the grove, to dry.

2: Thompson E-5 (1933-1934)1940 OQ6 Lau OQ6
Kambara

Breadfruit

245 Breadfruit (*uto*) is an important food in southern Lau. The varieties of breadfruit are: *uto ntchina* (true breadfruit, considered the best), *mira-mira*, *uto yaleuu*, *mbuto*, and *mbale kana*. They differ in size of fruit, smoothness of surface, and shape of leaves.

Most breadfruit trees are found directly in or immediately around the village. On Mothe about 30 acres of breadfruit grove stretch along the foot of a hill, protected on the sea side by a good coconut grove. On Fulanga special care has been taken to grow breadfruit. In the villages, trees are planted wherever there is space. Kambara and Ongea grow little breadfruit.

Part of the breadfruit root is planted. If the planting spot is sandy and exposed to the sun, black or brown soil is brought to cover the root and protect it from the sun. In the village, a newly planted cutting is surrounded by vertical sticks or stones to protect it from chickens and pigs.

Breadfruit is picked off the trees by either men or women by means of a long, forked stick.

On Mothe and Fulanga breadfruit is second to manioc as a food staple whereas on the other islands sweet potato ranks second. Part of the breadfruit crop is fermented and stored.

[177] Moto of Undu says: "When I was a boy we had breadfruit, but my father told me they did not have it when the people of Undu lived at Thakenaloa [an old village site deserted approximately 100 years ago]."

Bananas

Varieties of bananas (*vuntchi*) are: *tchaina* (China, the natives distinguish three types of *tchaina*: long, medium, and short); *waiwai* (large and long, must be cooked a long time); *saivula* (the flesh has the same qualities as *waiwai*, but is yellow in either the ripe or unripe state); *pata* (a good banana either cooked or raw; thin fine leaves make the best cigarette paper, *saluka*); *linga ni marama* (lady finger, short and curved like a slender finger); and *puka* (grown on Namuka). Two other varieties, *vuntchi ni tangane* (boys' banana) and *sese wangga*, are said to have died out.

The *tchaina* is the most common banana, except on Ongea and Fulanga where the *papa* variety ranks first. As a rule, at least one banana tree is found at the side of each house, especially on Fulanga and Ongea. Most bananas on Kambara grow on the slopes of Ndelaioloi and behind Undu near the cliff.

Banana shoots are planted by men. In soil loosened with a stick, a hole is made with a stick, shell, or coconut cup. Formerly the quality of the shoots was determined by throwing them at the hole. If the shoot missed the hole,

2: Thompson E-5 (1933-1934)1940 OQ6 Lau OQ6
Kambara

to plant it was a waste of time and soil. Most people today plant the shoots without testing them by this method. 245

Bananas are harvested by men only. Usually the bunches are picked and hung from beams in the house to ripen. If wrapped in tapa to exclude light they turn yellow quickly. Sometimes a bunch is tied to a stick resting across the mouth of a hole in the ground so that the bunch hangs in the hole; then the hole is covered. The bananas ripen quickly without the skins turning yellow. 245 252

Nothing is done to fight the several banana pests. Young banana shoots are killed by a black beetle (*Cosmopolites sordidus*) which eats its way into the heart. Bats, especially the flying fox, eat bananas and many birds attack them. 245 136

Papaya

Papaya (*lewetchi, Carica papaya*) trees are found on all the islands of Lau. Wherever there is a chance clearing in the bush there are papaya trees, seeded by birds; but the fruit is small through lack of sun or exposure to wind. Papaya seeds are strewn carelessly. As the sprouts come to the surface a few stones are placed around them for protection. Within three months a tree is 2 to 3 meters high. The fruit is best during the first and second year. The main crop is ripe about November, December, and January, but papayas are eaten throughout the year. The fruit which weighs up to six pounds is picked off the tree with a stick. Papaya is not valued highly by the natives.

NON-FOOD PLANTS

Pandanus

Pandanus grows well on Kambara, and especially well on Wangava. On Fulanga it is good and plentiful. The leaves have a special softness, do not break when dry, and make fine smooth mats. Namuka has little pandanus. 249

Pandanus grows best in the shade and in damp soil. Usually it is found as an underbrush in coconut groves. Occasionally one sees a patch in the bush. It is planted by men or women, preferably during the rainy season. A crown shoot about 0.5 meter long is cut out of a plant and part of it is shoved into a hole dug in the ground. The first leaves are cut after one year of growth, but they are too weak and small to make good mats. The leaves are best in the third and fourth years of growth. They are cut in the dry months, about 5 or 6 cm. from the trunk. A plant that has grown so high that the leaves cannot be cut while the cutter is standing on the ground is bent.

3: Thompson E-5 (1933-1934) 1940 OQ6 Lau OQ6
Kambara

656 431 439 and large ceremonial exchanges were discouraged. The exchange of property between related groups and the amount of tribute which a chief might extract from his people were limited by regulation.

178 656 431 439 These regulations have, of course, proved largely unsuccessful since the abuses they attempt to correct lie deep-rooted in the native economic system. Such rules cannot bridge the wide gap between western competitive capitalism based on money and credit, which emphasizes the accumulation of wealth by the individual, and native competitive communalism, which emphasizes the distribution of wealth by the group. They have, however, had unexpected results. The attempt to limit the exchange of goods between related groups has resulted in sapping vitality from the economic life. Distribution by competitive exchanges between related clans or villages, with its accompanying ceremonies and feasts, is a necessary stimulus to production under the native system. Moreover, instead of being curtailed, the soliciting of western trade goods has been extended outside the boundaries of the related group. Whereas formerly a man solicited only from his relatives, now he solicits trade goods from whomsoever he pleases. The effect of the limitation of tribute has been to cause the people to question the demands of their chiefs and to pay only the barest minimum. It has directly undermined the authority of the chiefs.

439 245 The development of western economy in southern Lau, as in many parts of Fiji, is closely linked with the rise of the copra trade. Between 1900 and 1920 the market price of copra rose from £9 to £25 per ton, chiefly because of the increasing demands for coconut oil in the manufacture of vegetable butter and good quality soaps. The industry in Fiji expanded rapidly, the number and area of the coconut plantations increased, and the production of copra in the colony practically

3: Thompson E-5 (1933-1934) 1940 OQ6 Lau OQ6
Kambara

doubled.[37] This commercial development had a strong effect on the southern Lau islands where the soil is particularly suited to the growth of coconuts.

The systematic production of coconuts in southern Lau began during the Tongan regime when the Tongan chiefs exacted tribute from the Lauans in the form of large quantities of perfumed coconut oil, which was shipped by canoe to Tonga. With the rise in the price of copra these plantations began to be used commercially, and their area was increased until they covered much of the available coconut land in southern Lau. Trade stores sprang up on all islands. They were run by Chinese or European traders, who exchanged copra for cash, or for western trade goods such as metal tools, cloth, soap, kerosene, matches, tobacco, tinned beef, rice, flour, sugar, mosquito nets, chairs, and even "Singer" sewing machines. In the southern islands, where no land has been alienated, the copra industry remained in the hands of the natives. Each clan supplied labor for its own plantations, and as the natives began to acquire a taste for western goods, the men, women, and children worked on the plantations.

The sudden wave of material prosperity had a serious effect on native life. Gardens, fishing, crafts, and native trade were

[37] The development of the copra industry in Fiji by four year periods since 1877 is as follows:

Period	*Total copra shipped* (tons)	*Total value* (£)	*Value per ton* (£. s. d.)
1877-81	33,474	457,776	13. 13. 6
1882-86	27,782	312,213	11. 4. 9
1887-91	22,322	195,056	8. 14. 9
1892-96	34,827	309,543	8. 10. 11
1897-01	50,571	492,603	9. 14. 10
1902-06	50,083	621,799	12. 8. 3
1907-11	69,884	1,122,976	16. 1. 3
1912-16	60,040	1,057,058	17. 12. 1
1917-21	91,193	2,294,517	25. 3. 3
1922-26	121,286	2,345,205	19. 6. 8
1927-31	128,532	2,212,958	17. 4. 4
1932-35	87,280	714,447	8. 3. 11

(*Handbook of Fiji*, 1937, p. 73.)

3: Thompson E-5 (1933-1934) 1940 OQ6 Lau OQ6
Kambara

439 neglected, and the natives began to buy food from the store.
245 The native culture began to break down. The trade cutter
178 almost completely replaced the sailing canoe, and during this period the large double war canoe disappeared. The art of pottery making by the Levuka women of Lakemba[38] fell into disuse as native clay pots were displaced by large imported metal ones. The technic of making fish hooks was lost, and imported paraphernalia such as lines, nets, and ropes were used instead of native products. Iron roofs appeared on the houses of the most prosperous natives, and even a few small metal tanks were used to catch the rain water from them.

[554] A factor of great significance in the decline of native material culture during this period was the social prestige attached to all imported articles. Everyone strove to buy as much as possible from the store, and the number of imported articles which a group possessed was limited only by its ability to pay the price in copra. Clothes, iron roofs, canned food, and metal tools all became the means by which a person might raise his status in the community.

464 At this time native labor was in great demand, especially
177 on copra plantations in many parts of Fiji, and large numbers of young men from the southern islands left their villages under contract to work for periods of a year or more. While away the young men came under greater western influence than had penetrated to the isolated southern islands, and when they returned they brought not only new goods and money but also new ideas. The loss of the young men of the village not only cut the available supply of labor but also upset the balance of sexes in the villages. It led to the post-
[161] ponement of the marriage age of the young people. In spite of this factor the population of Lau began to increase.

439 As in many parts of the South Seas, the period of prosperity
245 in Fiji ended abruptly with the slump in the price of copra
435 after the world war. Largely because of overproduction and

[38] L. Thompson, "The Pottery of the Lau Islands, Fiji," op. cit.

3: Thompson E-5 (1933-1934) 1940 OQ6 Lau OQ6
Kambara

competition with the whale oil industry, the market price of copra fell from £25 to £8 per ton between 1920 and 1935.[89]

Copra production was also severely curtailed in the early 20's by the spread of the purple moth (*Levuana iridescens*) from Viti Levu, where it had been known for at least sixty years, to Ovalau, and thence to many parts of Fiji including the Lau islands. The colonial government introduced a two-winged parasitic fly (*Ptychomyia remota*) from the Federated Malay States, which by 1929 had brought the pest under control and by 1936 had caused its almost complete extinction. Moreover, plantations were attacked by the coconut scale (*Aspidiotus destructa*), which is being successfully combated by a coccinellid beetle imported by the government from Java.

The great depression that struck the western world in 1929 did not affect Lau until 1931, but in that year the demand for copra fell away sharply. Communication with the outside world practically ceased, and most of the trade stores were abandoned. The natives suddenly found themselves deprived of the easy means of obtaining western trade goods on which they had become dependent. Their only recourse was to their old life. Neglected gardens were cleared and replanted, native crafts were revived, and inter-island trade was resumed. The southern island once more became the center of canoe building, woodwork, barkcloth, and mat making in Fiji. Involuntarily

[89] Annual copra exports from the colony since 1922 are shown in the following table:

Year	*Quantity* tons	*Total value* (£)	*Year*	*Quantity* tons	*Total value* (£)
1922	21,987		1930	23,882	369,524
1923	24,161		1931	16,917	177,786
1924	25,137	484,496	1932	15,076	170,240
1925	24,133	497,713	1933	22,597	195,788
1926	27,868	573,475	1934	23,526	125,941
1927	26,560	534,416	1935	16,081	220,478
1928	27,947	567,254	1936	34,581	406,393
1929	33,226	563,978			

(*Annual Reports*, Fiji, 1922-36.)

3: Thompson E-5 (1933-1934) 1940 OQ6 Lau OQ6
Kambara

439 the natives regained most of their economic independence. 178 However, a few trade articles such as bush knives, metal axes, 434 trade cloth, soap, and cooking pots, have so far proved indispensable, and in 1934 enough copra was produced to exchange for these bare necessities which were still obtainable at a few centers. By this time there was no regular transportation to and from southern Lau. Most of the traveling of the natives was done by sailing canoes which had been revived. Otherwise an occasional visit by a Chinese owned trade cutter to replenish the supply of trade goods, a government ship for inspection, or a wandering scientist were the only contacts with the outside world.

731 The situation caused by the depressed market of 1931 was 439 aggravated by a hurricane which hit the Fiji islands in that 435 year. Actually the lowest point in the copra depression in 245 Fiji was not reached until 1934, when the local price fell to £3.12.6 per ton.[40] Since 1934 the price and the production of copra has increased until 34,581 tons were produced at about £9.5.4 per ton in 1936. However, the price of copra was still barely high enough to cover the cost of production.

439 It is estimated that two-thirds of the 1936 copra crop in 245 Fiji was produced by natives. This indicates that the native production of copra is increasing rapidly, but native methods of drying are primitive and tend to produce a poor quality of copra which sells at lower than market price. For some years the department of agriculture has been experimenting with small cheap types of hot air dryers in an effort to perfect a type suitable for use by native producers. A type of sawn [654] timber kiln costing from £5 to £6 was first erected for demonstration purposes at the Agricultural Station at Navuso. This kiln produces copra which sells at a premium of 10s. per ton. Under government encouragement the natives are gradually becoming interested in it and this interest is spreading throughout the Fiji group. A satisfactory kiln made of

[40] It is estimated that 50% of the crop of 23,536 tons was produced by natives.

3: Thompson E-5 (1933-1934) 1940 OQ6 Lau OQ6
Kambara

"bush" timber which costs little more than the labor required for construction has also been introduced, but the natives prefer the more finished sawn timber type.

The government is also stimulating the copra industry among the natives of Fiji by encouraging the planting of coconut palms, by supplying seedlings for planting in areas where seed nuts are not readily available, by carrying on experiments in the breeding of early maturing types of coconuts, and by assisting in an attempt to start the manufacture of dessicated coconut in Fiji.[41]

The upswing in the copra trade has naturally had an effect on the southern Lau islands where the advance and retreat of western influence depends to a large extent on the market demand and current price. On these isolated and land-poor islands there are practically no natural resources of commercial value except the coconut. The well-being of the natives and their attainment of a new adjustment depend in a large measure upon the extent and the rate of recovery of the copra trade. Too rapid expansion of the copra industry and with it western influence had a detrimental effect on the culture. Time and slow growth are necessary to absorb new elements into the old life patterns and to establish a new adjustment to the environment.

The most significant effect of the introduction of western economy into southern Lau, however, has been a devitalizing of the native economic life due to the clash of the fundamentally opposed economic philosophies. If this is to be overcome an adjustment between the two systems must be found which will bridge the gap between them. Since, as a result of recent changes, the whole tendency has been from the old communalism toward growing individualism, the new adjustment must lead the native slowly in this direction so that he will eventually become strong enough to protect himself in the modern economic world.

[41] *Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture*, Fiji, 1936, pp. 9-10.

9: Bryan N-5 (1924) 1924 OQ6 Lau OQ6

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE LAU GROUP, FIJI.

by E. H. Bryan, Jr.

(Whitney South Sea Bird Expedition, July to October, 1924.)

Introduction.

101 [131] The Lau or Eastern Group, of Fiji, consists of about 40 islands or clusters of islets and numerous reefs, extending from S.16° 40' to S. 19° 15' and from 178° 20' W. to 179° 30' W. It constitutes [648] a frontier between Fiji and Tonga, and has in past years been the 144 scene of numerous invasions from the latter group. On several of the islands the Tongan strain is quite noticeable. The majority of 231 the islands are inhabited by an industrious people, who live on 241 262 fish, pigs, fowl, and yams, sweet potatoes, taro, manioc and bananas, which they raise extensively for local consumption. The ● 245 main product of the islands is copra which is dried in quantity from the extensive groves of coconut palms. Many of the men are 322 skillful carvers, making attractive yaqona (yang-gona) bowls, combs, clubs, wooden pillows, and canoes. The women weave mats from the 285 leaves of the Pandanus, and beat out the sap wood of the paper 287 824 mulberry (Broussonetia papyrifera) into a bark cloth called masi, the process being called samusamu.

133 There are three types of islands in Lau, as follows: limestone, volcanic, and a combination of both. Portions of some of the islands are sandstone, but no island is completely made up of this material. The types are so distinctive that they may be identified at a glance.

The limestone islands are exceedingly rough. The material is upraised coral reef. Their surface has been eroded into sharp ridges or hummocks separating deep pot-holes with jagged-faces. The coast line includes deep bays, rugged cliffs and isolated rocks; all typically under-cut at the water's edge. This gives the smaller

[ONGEA ISLANDS]

13 From the latter[1] a good trail leads across the central flat to the [987] village. The bay on the south side of Ongea Levu is too shallow for vessels larger than small cutters to enter.

317 There is no fresh water other than rainwater which is caught and stored in a cement cistern at the village.

136 No wild animals other than rats, lizards and snakes occur on these islands. There is a large green lizard called "vokai" by the natives, and one (perhaps two) species of gray-brown snakes. The natives report wild goats, but neither they nor their tracks were seen..

361 [161] 241 All the inhabitants, about 100 in number, live in the village on Ongea Levu, but they cultivate considerable areas on both Levu and Ndriti. The principal products raised are manioc, sweet potato, ● 245 yams, taro and bananas. The cocomut groves are not so extensive as the area of the islands would permit, but they apparently produce sufficient copra to supply the humble wants of the natives. 181 The people are industrious and fairly intelligent despite their 144 isolation. There is a more or less distinct Tongan cast. Wood 320 carving, mat weaving and tapa beating are carried on to some extent, 285 and numbers of canoes are cut in the thick woods. Pigs and a few 287 fowl are raised, and dogs are kept as pets. 231

[1] [i.e.—anchorage on the west side of Ongea Levu. —analyst]

[FULANGA I.]

312 Water is available only at the villages where rainwater is caught and stored in cement tanks.

13 The limestone hills are thickly covered with the usual lowland forest. The flats on both sides support extensive groves of coconut palms and cultivated areas. Mangrove thickets border the S.W. side of the lagoon.

The animals include birds, rats, lizards and probably snakes, although none of the latter were seen, except the banded water snake.
[231] The natives have domestic fowls, pigs and dogs. Mosquitoes present.

361 There are three small villages on Fulanga. Muanaithake and Muanaira are close together on the south ocean side. The former
[161] has a population of about 200, living in 40 houses; the latter is much smaller, about a dozen houses and 40 inhabitants. Naividamu is situated on the N.W. arm, on the lagoon side. It has a population
487 of 64, living in a dozen huts. The three villages are connected by a good path.

181 The people appear prosperous and fairly industrious. The women
462 catch fish and dive for shell fish and oysters within the lagoon. The
[226] men do the reef fishing and cultivate the fields. Canoe making and
241 some carving is done, and the women weave mats and beat out masi (tapa).
[321] Some little copra is cut and shipped and the usual crops of sweet
285 potatoes, yams, manioc and bananas are grown, the latter for local
[287] consumption only.
295
241

[p. 16]

13 4. The YANGASA CLUSTER (pronounced Yang'-a-saw) is made up of four small uninhabited limestone islands, within one lagoon 8 by 6 miles, protected by a subcircular barrier reef which has a two mile break on the north side. They lie about 12 miles north of Fulanga and Ongea Levu, the center of the lagoon being S.18° 56', 178° 29' W.

[423] [245] [484] The group is said to belong to the people of Mothe, who gather the copra from several small patches of coconut palms.

YANGASA LEVU, the largest island of the cluster, is 1 2/3 by 1/2 mile, triangular in shape, with a central plateau, 390 feet high. The slopes and plateau are exceedingly rough and heavily wooded, but there is a comparatively level, smooth bench on the east side with a few coconut palms in addition to open woods. The west slope of the plateau rises percipitously from the water, but on the east the slope can be climbed in places. No beaches, but landing is possible on the west side of the south point, near which there is one small pool of nearly fresh water, surrounded by a grove of coconut palms.

NAVUTU-I-LOMA, the southern islet of the cluster, lies about 1 1/2 miles to the south-west of Yangasa Levu. It is irregularly oval in shape, 1/2 by nearly 1 mile. The surface is densely covered with lowland forest and for the most part exceedingly rough. On the N.E. side a ridge rises to a height of 210 feet. On the S.W. the land is low with deep bays choaked with mangrove swamps. The central portion is flat. A small bay with sandy beach offers good landing at the S.W. point. Opposite this bay the anchorage is good. There are other sand beaches and three small crescent shaped islets on the N.E. side.

YAVUTHA lies 1 1/2 miles to the N.W. of Navutu-i-loma. Though little more than a quarter mile in diameter it reaches an elevation of 240 feet in a sharp peak on the S.E. It is densely wooded with the usual lowland forest and has quite a grove of Casuarina trees on

13 5. NAMUKA-I-LAU lies about 8 miles N.W. of the Yangasa Cluster.
[361] (Village: S.18° 51', 178° 38' W.)It is rectangular in shape, a little over 4 miles long by 1 broad, and composed of coral limestone. A barrier reef, reduced to a chain of coral heads on the N.W., surrounds the island. On the north side of the island a rough ridge of upraised coral limestone rises abruptly from the sea to a height of 260 feet, and on the S.W. there is a short ridge up to 240 feet high.
[361] The village is located on a large bay facing the south, and another sandy bay is located at the west end. Each contains two small islets. The interior is a flat covered with extensive groves of coconut palms and cultivated areas. Along the ridges and at each end is lowland forest. There is a small marsh near the village.

The south bay is shallow and inaccessable. Good anchorage may
[487] be had within the reef off the north side. A trail leads over the ridge from a landing situated half way between the highest peak (260') and a more conspicuous double peak (210'), near a coconut grove.
[312] Rainwater is caught and stored at the village.

No land snakes, but water snakes are to be found occasionally on the rough coral beaches. Rats, hermit crabs and lizards are present. Mosquitoes and dragonflies ~~[illegible]~~ numerous.

361 The village is of moderate size, with over 50 houses and a pop-
161 ulation of about 216. The inhabitants are industrious and prosperous
181 cutting a large amount of copra and farming extensive cultivated areas.
245 There is a Chinese store. There is considerable beating of masi (tapa),
241 but very little carving.
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[p. 23]

13 9. OLOMUA is a small islet of volcanic material, 8 miles N.W. of Komo, surrounded by a semi-frigging reef. It is about 3/8 mile long by 1/4 mile wide, with three hills, the southern one of which rises 250 feet. The west side has so eroded as to disclose an interesting formation of bedded tuff, which slopes outward and downward from the center. The hills are covered with a very open stand of small trees, between which are areas of grass or bare ground strewn with weathered lava rocks.

Near the middle of the east side a depression or mineature valley, with a trickle of marky water, holds a patch of coconut palms. Another small grove is located directly across the low divide on the west side, and there are a few palms on the S.E. end.

Birds are numerous, including barn owls and ground doves. Lizards, hermit crabs and probably rats present. Insects and landshells very few.

245 [161] 484 There are no inhabitants, but copra is gathered, probably by the natives of Komo.

[p.32]

13 11. MARAMBO Island is a small, nearly circular limestone island located 7 miles east of the south end of Kambara. (Lat.16° 59', Long. 178° 50' W.) The surrounding reef is fringing in character, about 1 1/2 miles on a side. The island is about 1200 yards in diameter, with a rough flat topped hill on the north, "160" feet high (nearer 200 feet), the summit having a densely wooded depression. Between this hill and the west beach, where there is a low ridge, is a small flat, wooded and with coconut palms. South of the hill is a broad area of rough "badlands".

There is no anchorage, but landing is good thru a gap in the reef on the north side, leading to a broad sandy beach.

[312] No fresh water noted.

The surface is covered with the usual thick lowland forest, and the sand beach has an extensive growth of coconut palms and beach plants, especially at the N. and S.W. ends. The usual birds and small crabs and lizards present.

361 The island is uninhabited most of the time. There are four
245 tumbled-down huts on the west side which are occasionally used by the
484 Kambara natives when gathering copra. The 1921 census gives a pop-
161 ulation of 8. At the time of our visit (Aug.26,1924) one of the huts
484 was occupied by a man and two boys, stranded en route from Komo to
241 Fulanga. Most of the island is too rough for cultivation, but in addition to the two groves of coconut palms there is a small cultivated area toward the S.W. end.

[p.36]

13 12. WANGAVA island is of rough upraised coral limestone formation, 3 miles N.E. of Kambara. It is shuttle-shaped, 3 1/2 miles long and 1 mile wide. The island is surrounded by a rough marginal limestone ridge, rising steeply from the sea to 350 feet, enclosing a basin, much of which is occupied by a brackish lake. This lake is much more extensive than shown on charts of the island, being over a mile long and filling the entire N.E. two-thirds of the interior. The S.W. end is an undulating wooded plateau, with a few patches of cocomut palms and widl lemon trees. There is also an extensive grove of cocomut palms at the N.E. end of the lake, and small patches along its shore.

The rough, "badlands" of the surrounding ridge are covered with the usual lowland forest. The sand beaches have the usual littoral vegetation, including Erythrina indica, not seen on every island. The interior [139] contains plenty of good soil for cultivation, none of which is in use.

Landing is favorable on the N. side, where there are several sand beaches and the surrounding barrier reef is broken up into patches of coral heads. Anchorage may also be obtained here with an off shore 484 (E. to S.W.) wind. A trail leads into the interior from a sand beach 312 at the N.W. end. No fresh water seen.

361 The island is uninhabited, but there are some huts on the N.W. 161 beach, used by natives from Kambara, collecting copra. In the interior ● 245 trees have been felled in places. 484

[p.37]

13 15. TUVUNASITHI is a very small island of upraised coral limestone, 13 miles N.W. of Wangava and 25 miles S.W. of Olorua. It is sub-circular in outline, 1/2 mile in diameter, and rises in a steep, crescent shaped ridge on the east side to 200 feet elevation. It is surrounded by a fringing reef with no entrance. The S. and E. sides are rocky, the N. and W. sandy. The east ridge and west flat both consist of well forested coral "badlands".

There is no anchorage. Landing is possible on the N.W. side at half tide or higher; a small break in the reef giving access to a sandy basin from which the sand beach may be reached.

[312] There is no fresh water.

There is the usual littoral vegetation, the north and west beaches having more Pemphis than usual. There are small clumps of coconut palms.

295 161 361 The island is uninhabited, but the copra is collected and there is a small hut on the N. beach.

[p. 38]

13 14. AIWA ISLANDS. Two small uninhabited islands of upraised coral limestone, about 12 miles S.E. of Lakemba. (18° 20' S., 178° 41' W.). They are each about a mile long by 600 ~~yards~~ yards wide, lying in nearly a straight line, with their ends close together and connected by a sunken reef. An elongate barrier reef extends out from each side for 3 or 4 miles, being continuous across the south side, but reduced to broken patches and coral heads on the north. The islands rise abruptly from the water in rough undercut cliffs to a height of 150 to 200 feet, but they are comparatively flat and even on the tops.

Anchorage may be had on the N. side of the western island, there being a broad clear entrance to the lagoon on the N.W. Landing is good in a small sandy bay at the east end of the western islet. It is more difficult, but possible, on the eastern islet, in places along both the N. and S. sides, the latter being better at low tide.

There are numerous caves in the limestone walls, and one large broken in cavern in the east central portion of the western islet, at the bottom of which there is a pool of brackish water. There is no [312] fresh water on the islands except immediately after rains, when a little rainwater collects in open depressions.

The interior flats are covered with the usual lowland vegetation, open and park-like. There is a patch of introduced weeds and a few coconut palms near the sand beach on the western islet. On the eastern islet there is a small area of reed or nasau grass, with Pandanus trees. There is no cultivation.

[423] A flock of goats was placed on the islets by the late native owner, a chief residing on Lakemba. There are the usual birds, lizards, crabs and 484 snakes. The islands are occasionally visited for copra and goat hunting. 245 224

[p. 40]

361 161 [491] Lakemba has seven native villages, Tumbou being the largest one in Lau, with a population of 283. The others in order as one goes counter-clockwise along the well kept connecting road are:- Wathiwathi, on the east side of the south-jutting peninsula, 130 natives; Waitambu, three quarters of a mile to the east, 76 inhabitants; Nukunuku at the S.E. corner of the island, at the head of a small bay, 70 natives; Yandrana, along the banks of a fair size stream, at the N.E. corner, 187 inhabitants; Vakano, about 2 miles to the N.W., 70 natives; and Nasanggalau, with 150 inhabitants, about a mile to the westward at the mouth of the next stream. The west end of the island, opposite the Wankatalatha anchorage, is privately owned. There is a small store, 423 366 179 run by Chinese in nearly every village, and a large store run by the Lau Traders, Ltd., at Tumbou.

181 439 ● 295 241 287 The inhabitants are thrifty, intelligent and industrious, drying and exporting a large quantity of copra. There are extensive cultivated areas containing yams, sweet potatoes, etc., in the valleys. Considerable masi (tapa) is made.

799 871 Lakemba was the first island in Fiji to be Christianized by British Missionaries (1853). The Provincial School, to which boys from all over Lau are sent, is situated near Tumbou.

[p.43]

13 19. KATAFANGA (or Katavanga) is a small island of limestone and volcanic material, lying 25 miles S.E. of Munia and 19 miles N.N.E. of Tuvatha'. (S. 17° 31', 178° 45' W.) It is 3/4 mile long and 800 yards wide on the north, tapering toward the south, and rises in two rounded hills to a height of 180 feet. The northern third of the island is densely wooded, rough upraised coral limestone; the southern two-thirds, rounded volcanic material, covered with grass and groves of coconut palms. The transition between the two is the most striking seen in Lau, as sharp as if cut by a knife. The southern portion is bordered by a broad beach of sand and slab sandstone.

The island is surrounded by a barrier reef thru which there is a passage on the north side which will admit small vessels drawing 10 feet or less. This passage is not the eastern one, generally indicated on charts, but the narrow one directly north of the N.E. point of the island. In it there are two or three coral heads, but with a favorable tide and commanding breeze small vessels may enter. A desirable
361 anchorage is to be had off the S.E. side of the island, opposite the owner's house, where landing is good.

473 The island is freehold property, owned by Mr. T.O.U.Stockwell, who
● 295 lives on the island and is engaged in ~~xxxxxx~~ producing copra. There is no
464 native population other than his six workmen. Water may be obtained
312 together with small supplies of yams, sweet potatoes, papayas, pigs, etc.
262 Bird and insect life abundant on this luxurient little island. The
13 usual lizards and land crabs present in some numbers.

[p.51]

13 22. NAIAU is a high limestone and volcanic island, 16 miles N.W.of Lakemba and 20 miles S.W.of Tuvutha'. (S.17° 58', 179° 04' W.) The island is 3 1/2 miles long by 2 miles wide, and is surrounded by a fringing reef. The high marginal ridge of upraised coral limestone, which rises percipitously on the north to 580 feet elevation, surrounds a dry central volcanic basin, carpeted with grass, scrub and Pandanus. The ridges are well forested.

There is no anchorage for vessels, but boats can cross the reef opposite the village of Salia on the east side, and also on the N.W. side, at high water.

312 Water is not abundant, but may be had at the villages, together with limited supplies of staple groceries and vegetables.

361 There are three villages on the island. Salia on the east side
[366] has a native population of 140 and two chinese stores. Narothivo
177 is located about a mile and a quarter to the N.N.W. and has 117
[161] people. Liku, with 59 natives is on the south-east side. There is no landing at Liku, and all supplies and copra has to be carried
489 by trail over the ridges and across the central basin. Gaps in the
13 limestone ridges on each side, with gradual slopes of volcanic material leading up to them, make this trail more accessable than
181 that on Tuvutha'. The people appear to be prosperous and produce
● 245 quite a little copra from the extensive coconut groves.

On the high ridge S.W. of Salia there is the site of an
172 ancient fortified village, perched at the top of a cliff.
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[p.56]

[THITHIA I.]

361 is the largest village, with 123 ~~[illegible]~~ residents and a Chinese
[161] store. Natheva is a small village on the S.E., with 40 natives, and
[366] also has a little store. Natokalau, on the east side has 65 residents.
177 Lomati, on the N.E., at the mouth of the large stream, is a prosperous
361 village with 113 residents and a large Chinese store. Mr. C.B.Crabbe,
361 coconut planter and postmaster, who lives here, also keeps a store,
[205] mainly for the convenience of his workmen. Two sections of the island, Tambuta
[466] on the west side and Vakindranu on the east, are privately owned by
423 the Borron Estate, under the management of Mr. E.J.Brodnam, who is
245 interested in tropical agriculture and natural history. Here extensive
groves of coconuts have been set out and much copra is produced.

[p.61]

13 25. MANGO is a moderately large limestone and volcanic island, 8 miles south of Kanathea, 20 miles W.N.W. of Tuvutha', and 17 miles N.N.E. of Thithia. (S.17° 27', 179° 09' W.). It is surrounded by a fringing reef, about 1/2 mile wide. On the north there is a wide gap in the reef, forming an excellent anchorage with the prevailing S. to E. winds. The island is nearly circular, 3 miles in diamtere, and reaches an elevation (Mt.Rider) on the south of 730 feet according to the owner (the Pilot Book, H.O.166, p.372, gives 670 feet). Two other high volcanic hills overlook the west coast, and there is one nearly as high in the north ridge.

This marginal ring of hills, partly volcanic and partly of upraised coral limestone, encloses a broad central basin which is at present 245 [248] [249] thickly planted to coconut palms. It was formally used for the cultivation of sugar cane, and prior to that for raising cotton. The 361 old sugar mill still stands near the owners houses, toward the center 491 of the basin. From it a small tram line runs to the N.E.bay.

The island is owned by Mr. James Borron, and is managed by his son. 423 There is no native population other than the workmen employed on the 464 plantation, which are mostly Indians. It is one of the most productive 162 and luxurient islands in Lau, and would be well worth an extended 13 biological survey. There is a dense forest among the limestone hills on the N.E., hanging with tropical vines, and with lianas up to 15 inches in diameter. The volcanic hills are covered with the usual grass and scrub, and here and there are groves of Casuarina trees. A small lake, in the N.W.gap, supports a flock of wild ducks, and other bird life is abundant.

312 Water is abundant. A large stream drains the central basin, flowing N.E. to the nearly enclosed bay. There are also several small lakes and pools of fresh water.

245 At present about 500 tons of copra are produced annually. A herd

13 26. KANATHEA is a circular island of volcanic material, 2 to 2 1/2 miles in diameter, lying 7 miles west of Vanua Mbalavu and 8 miles north of Mango. (S.17° 15', 179° 10' W.) It is surrounded by a fringing reef, and from the east side a loop of barrier reef extends about 6 miles to the N.E., enclosing a spacious lagoon. On the north [504] side there is an indentation in the shore reef within which small craft may anchor within a few hundred feet of a small wharf. The island is undulating and hilly, with several peaks of fair height, the highest (830') overlooking the N.W.shore. On the north-east rises a hill, on the S.E. side of which is a conspicuous thumb-like shaft of volcanic rock. The hills in several places rise in sheer cliffs of this material.

[312] Water is abundant, the interior being drained by several streams.

● [245] The valley bottoms and more gradual slopes are thickly planted with coconut palms. The summits of the hills are partly wooded.

423 245 233 136 248 249 161 The island is privately owned and over 600 tons of copra are produced annually. 700 head of cattle are pastured and flocks of ~~turkeys~~ turkeys roam the hills. In former times cotton and later sugar cane were successfully grown. There is no native population, all the workmen being Indians.

As bird life is carefully protected, insects are somewhat reduced in numbers. A strict quarentine is also maintained against weeds.

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[p.66]

13 28. AVEA is a small island composed of elevated coral limestone and volcanic material, lying a little over a mile off the N.E. side of Vanua Mbalavu. It is 1 3/4 miles long by 1/2 to 5/8 mile wide, pointed at both ends and rising to a height of 600 feet. The center is a small, narrow, wooded plateau, from which rise the two peaks, Salia (600'), and Sangawelangi (about 500'). The slopes rise abruptly from a narrow beach covered with coconut palms. The island is fringed with a coral reef on the east side and is connected to the north reef by a coral strip, over which small boats can pass at any time of tide. On the S.E. side is a grassy volcanic hill, the slopes of which are under cultivation.

361 161 312 487 The village, Avea, is located on the S.W. point and has a population of about 60 natives. There is a small freshwater pool at the foot of a cliff on the south end. A good trail leads from here to the village.

172 The remains of an ancient village occupies part of the flat-topped plateau.

13 29. Malata is a small wooded island, of partly limestone and partly volcanic material. It is a continuation S.S.E. of the limestone ridge at the south end of Vanua Mbalavu, with which it is connected by a broad reef which dries at 3/4 ebb tide, with a gap of only a few hundred feet. The island is 1 1/2 miles long by 1/2 mile wide, and rises to a height in the center of 420 feet.

[361] [291] [345] The village is situated on the N.E. side, where there is a grassy and partly cultivated volcanic hill, with a grove of coconut palms. Other portions of the island are also of volcanic formation.

30. Susui is a somewhat larger island of limestone and volcanic formation, lying to the eastward of the south-east point of Malata, with which it is connected by a reef which dries at 1/2 tide. It is 2 1/3 miles long by 3/4 mile wide. The western half is of wooded, elevated coral limestone,

[SUSUI I.]

13 the highest portion of which is a central transverse ridge, 430 feet high. The eastern half is a long, grassy flat of volcanic material, thickly covered with groves of cocoanut palms, which run up the eastern slope of the central hill. On the flat are two small hills covered with Casuarina trees. The village of Susui is situated at the N.W. [361] corner of this flat, at the head of a small bay. It has a population [161] of 67. The island is said to be used as a grazing ground for cattle. [233] Considerable copra is also produced. [245]

To the eastward are two small islands. The larger one, 190 feet high, has a small grove of cocoanut palms. The smaller, 80 feet high, rises more abruptly with rocky slopes adorned with Casuarina trees.

[p.71]

13 Sl. MUNIA is a small volcanic island, 2 1/4 miles long by 1500 yards wide, lying 3 1/2 miles E.by S. of Susui and 15 miles E.by N. of Mango. A high ridge traverses the island, reaching a height of 950 feet near the center. The island is surrounded by a fringing reef, which connects it with the south side of the barrier reef which surrounds the Exploring group. The island is entirely made up of volcanic material.

473 Munia is privately owned, by Mr. H.H. Steinmetz, an Englishman, who
162 produces copra. His homestead is located on the S.E.side at a place
295 where there is a small bight in the reef. Here a pier has been built
361 out nearly to deep water. Anchorage here is fair, except when the
504 strong
13 wind is from the S.E.to N.E. A better anchorage may be found in the lee of the island. Good paths traverse the island and its slopes are
487 thickly planted with cocoanut palms. Water is fairly abundant, there
312 being several wells.

Mr. Steinmetz has kept careful meteorological records for the
127 past 29 years (1924). A summary of his rainfall data is given in the introduction.

464 There is no native population on the island other than the workmen.
161 er
It formally possessed native inhabitants, however, and bones and ethno-
[172] logical objects have been dug up about the homestead.

[p.75]

13 56. NAITAUMBA is a trapezium-shape volcanic and limestone island, lying 15 miles N.W. of Vanua Mbalavu and 18 miles S.W.of Wailangilala. It is surrounded by a barrier reef which lies from 1/4 to 3/4 mile off shore. On the west the reef is reduced to a line of coral heads and patches. Here small boats may enter. Vessels may anchor, with an off shore wind, on a narrow shelf off this west side.

The island is 2 miles N.& E. by 1 1/2 miles N.& S. A central basin is surrounded by limestone and volcanic hills, the highest, on the S.E., reaching an elevation of 610 feet in a flat-topped volcanic peak rising with steep slopes. The limestone portions, especially on the N.E. and N.W. are densely wooded; the volcanic hills are covered with the usual grass, scrub and pandanus; and the basin contains an extensive grove of coconut palms.

423 The island is privately owned by Mr.G.M.Henning, who resides at a
361 homestead on the west side. Considerable copra is produced. Fresh
245 water is abundant, and small quantities of produce, turkeys, etc.,
312 might be obtainable at the homestead. Good trails traverse the island.
487 There is no native population other than the plantation workmen.
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The MALIMA Islets, two small uninhabited islets lying 6 miles S.E.
13 of Naitaumba, were not visited. They are surrounded by a continuous circular barrier reef, about 2 miles in diameter, with a small boat passage on the north side. The larger islet reaches a height of 130 feet in a conspicuous lump on its S.W. end. The lagoon contains numerous rocks and coral heads.

[p.83]

13 39. NUKUTOLU ISLETS are three in number, composed of sand and coral reef, and situated about 4 miles westward of Yathata.

The eastern islet is the largest, eliptical in outline, about 350 yards N.& S. by 250 to 300 yards wide, and covered with littoral trees and cocomut palms, 100 feet to the top of the vegetation. It is surrounded by a fringing reef, reaching about 1/4 mile off shore.

The middle islet is somewhat smaller and lower, being about 80 feet to the top of the vegetation, with a few cocomut palms on the S.W. side. The trees are here reduced to stunted scrub. The fringing reef lies about 1/4 mile offshore on the N.W., and closer on the east. On the south it makes a sharp elbow and extends westward to the western islet in a narrow arm. There is a small rock at the elbow.

The western islet is the smallest, not over 40 or 50 feet high to the top of the bushes. It has a small flat, with an open covering of scrub and vines. To the south, a rocky shelf extends above water for about 100 yards.

We found fair anchorage on a shelf in the cove, west of the middle islet. The islets are uninhabited, but are occasionally visited by the natives of Yathata for cocomuts and turtle.

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[p.84]

13 [103] 40. VATU VARA I. (or Hat island, because of its resemblence, in profile from the E. and W., to a slouch hat) lies 9 miles south of Yathata. (S.17° 26', 179° 32' W.) It is surrounded by a fringing reef with a small shallow lagoon on the west. This island is the highest in Lau, the bold central peak rising to a height of 1630 feet. The slopes of this peak rise percipitously to a flat, crater-like summit, where the [172] [712] ruins of a fortified village are located.

The island is sub-circular, about 1 1/4 miles in diameter, with a square point on the S.E. It is composed of upraised coral limestone, densely wooded, and with small groves of coconut palms in pockets around 423 the foot of the talis slopes, and on the beaches. It is privately owned 361 by the estate of the late Captain Wilson. The neat, substantial home- 245 stead is located on the west side. Copra is produced.

13 Landing may be made without difficulty on ~~the~~ a sand beach on the N. 502 side, thru a small break in the reef, marked by a beacon.

464 There are no inhabitants except the caretaker and a few workmen. 167 Water is not abundant, and but little cultivation is done. 161 312 241

[p.88]

174 It is thus that the Tongans were first driven
797 here, with the important result that in after years early white missionaries from Tonga were able to introduce Christianity and civilization, with the help of descendants of these first native colonists who had kept up an intercourse with their brethren in Tonga. It is thus, indeed, that the first white men—"gods who ate fire," as the natives called them—set foot in these islands from an unknown ship wrecked on the Bukatatanoa reef, towards the close of the eighteenth century. And from the Lau Islands all these influences passed on to Fiji itself.

131 The Lau group is scattered between 16° and 21° south latitude, and 178° and 180° west longitude—even at certain places extending well over the border into east longitude—or, roughly, two hundred and fifty miles long by one hundred and fifty miles broad. Thus they cover an ocean area of some thirty thousand square miles, though they are themselves, compared to other lands, mere specks in the ocean; the largest being but twenty-five miles long—and that length only because of its somewhat curved shape.

[174] [175] [648] Nevertheless they have a great importance from three points of view:

134 (*a*) *Utilitarian*, because they are by nature
• 245 endowed with the choicest soil for coco-nut cultivation, which is made full use of, and thus

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they are a most valuable asset to the great copra industry of Fiji;

(*b*) *Political*, because the whole question of the cession of the rich Colony of Fiji to Great Britain at one time depended on the famous Ma'afu, who had by sheer force of character and personality made himself King of the Lau Islands (and well on the road to being King of Fiji); and also because it is to a large extent on the example of the more intellectual and higher type of Lau islander that the future of the native races of Fiji depends; and

(*c*) *Scientific*, because many questions of ethnology and theories of the migrations of the peoples of the Pacific are interlaced with our attempts to trace the origin of the early inhabitants of the Lau Islands.

Now, there are many conflicting views as to the great "drifts" or movements which undoubtedly took place among the early natives in different directions across the Pacific. The simplest form of "drift" would be somewhat as follows: A party of men and women, perhaps thirty or forty, would start out one fine morning in a canoe—well stocked with provisions for the day—for a fishing expedition to some islet, perhaps a dozen miles away. While on their way one of the sudden storms of the Pacific would arise from the direction of their home and carry them